HAY URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1951.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28847143

1/.

HAY URBAN DISTRICT

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1951.

Mr.Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District for the year 1951.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 42/51 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year 1951.

Area.....370 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....1452.
Population (Estimated at midsummer 1951).....1433.
Number of inhabited houses.....468.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	13.	11.	24.	
Illegitimate	1.	2.	3.	
	14.	13.	27.	18.8

Still Births.....0.

Deaths from all causes..	9.	15.	24.	16.7

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under 1 year.....1. Rate per 1000 live births....37

Deaths from special causes.
Infectious disease.....Nil.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....One.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....One.

Area.

The district of Hay is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

The surrounding district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the surrounding residents

POPULATION. Census.1931.....1509.
Census.1951.....1452.

1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
1556.	1409.	1450.	1420.	1344.	1345.	1361.	1398.	1407.	1455.	1433.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 468 giving an average number of 3.0 persons per house.

Hay Urban District.

BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			26	19.0.
1939			15	11.2.
1940	19	20	39	28.0.
1941	12	12	24	15.3.
1942	19	9	28	19.3.
1943	7	17	24	16.5.
1944	16	13	29	20.4.
1945	16	8	24	17.8.
1946	10	14	24	17.7.
1947	14	17	31	22.7.
1948	6	10	16	11.4.
1949	15	7	22	15.6.
1950	9	10	19	13.0.
1951	14	13	27	18.8.
England and Wales, 1951				15.5.

The birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was also higher than the death rate.

DEATHS.

After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			25	18.3.
1939			23	17.3.
1940	15	16	31	22.0.
1941	11	13	24	15.4.
1942	8	16	24	16.1.
1943	14	12	26	17.8.
1944	13	11	24	16.8.
1945	21	10	31	23.0.
1946	12	8	20	14.7.
1947	10	12	22	16.0.
1948	11	12	23	16.4.
1949	13	15	28	19.9.
1950	8	16	24	16.5.
1951	9	15	24	16.7.
England and Wales, 1951				12.5.

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1951, was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, but was lower than the birth rate for the district.

STILL BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			1	0.7.
1939			1	0.7.
1940	0	0	0	0.
1941	1	0	1	0.6.
1942	0	0	0	0.
1943	0	0	0	0.
1944	1	0	1	0.7.
1945	0	0	0	0.
1946	0	0	0	0.
1947	0	0	0	0.
1948	0	0	0	0.
1949	0	2	2	1.4.
1950	2	0	2	1.3.
1951	0	0	0	0.
England and Wales, 1951				0.36.

The still birthrate was lower than that of the average of the whole of England and Wales.

Hay Urban District.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.

The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			2	76.8.
1939			1	66.6.
1940	2	2	4	102.0.
1941	0	0	0	0.
1942	1	0	1	36.0.
1943	0	1	1	41.0.
1944	0	0	0	0.
1945	1	0	1	41.0.
1946	1	0	1	41.0.
1947	0	0	0	0.
1948	0	0	0	0.
1949	1	1	2	90.0.
1950	0	0	0	0.
1951	1	0	1	37.0.
England and Wales, 1951				29.6.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....9. Females.....15.

Cause.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1.
Malignant neoplasms	1	0.
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5.
Coronary disease	2	1.
Other heart disease	3	6.
Other circulatory disease	0	1.
Nephritis	1	1.
Other causes	1	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district in 1951 amounted to three.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in the previous year. Mr.G.Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease could be performed at the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff and at Hereford. All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Hay Urban District.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council are held regularly at Wesley Hall, Oxford Road. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available. These are also administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and visual defects, and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, childlife protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. The water supplies to the district are taken from mountain springs. During the year the water supply could not be regarded as adequate in quantity.

The supply was cut off from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily from the 13th July to 18th September inclusive and from 19th September to 9th November it was shut off completely except for 6 hours daily. This only applies to the Hay Common supply.

Serious consideration was given during the year to the redesign of Hay Common treatment works.

All the houses in the district have water laid on, all not necessarily inside the house.

Samples taken during the year.

Hay Common.....	6 samples	5 satisfactory. 1 unsatisfactory.
Llangwathan.....	5 samples	3 satisfactory. 2 unsatisfactory.
Swan Well.....	1 sample	1 satisfactory.

The filter bed was skimmed during the year.

Progress in the new Esgryn brook and Llanybwchllan schemes appears slow and the provision of an adequate and wholesome supply of water still therefore remains a pressing need in the district.

Number of visits of inspection by sanitary inspector.....21.

Hay Urban District.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but it is discharged direct into the river Wye. During the year the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a scheme for a sewage disposal works.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector in connection with drainage work.....8.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. This work is done by the Council employees under the supervision of your sanitary inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by tipping. The present tip is likely to be completely filled in about 3 years. Alternative sites should be sought.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the sanitary inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....22.
Number of complaints investigated.....22.
Number of premises inspected.....27.
Number of premises revisited.....11.
Number of preliminary notices served.....4.
Number of statutory notices served.....0.

There has been some difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. It is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector.....30.
There were proposals submitted to bring two other premises up to required standard.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....42.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....16.
Number of inspections made.....33.
Number of defects found.....11.
Number of defects remedied.....11.

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Hay Urban District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps Taken to combat Infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected.....4.
Number of premises treated for vermin during the year.....2.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operative is engaged by the Council. This same operative is also engaged by the Hay Rural Council. This operative worked under the supervision of the sanitary inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....221.
Number of premises found infested.....31.
Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....26.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....5.
Number of dead rats recovered.....76.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....613.

The sewers were treated in May and October.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing situation was acute. The Council erected six houses during the year, These were also occupied. No houses were built by private enterprise. There were two applications for Improvement Grants, one of these exceeded the Financial limit and the other was not accepted by the Council.

Houses erected since the war:- (a) by Council.....44.
(b) " Private Enterprise.....Nil.

Number of applications still on waiting list at end of year.....68.
Number of house to house inspections made.....58.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. On October 1st,1949, the Milk and Dairies Act,1944, came into operation. Under this Act the supervision of farm buildings connected with the production of milk became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Local Authorities were left with the control and licensing of distributors.

Samples taken during the year.

Number of samples taken.....31.
Number of samples satisfactory.....23.
Number of samples unsatisfactory.....8.
The results of these samples weresent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Brecon.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat to the district is supplied from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point at Brecon.

No meat was condemned during the year.

Hay Urban District.

Other Foods.

Number of tins condemned.....329.
Number of pounds condemned.....205.

Food Preparation Rooms (including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....23.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....22.

There were five retailers of ice cream during the year, one being a producer retailer. No samples of ice cream were taken during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....21.
There were two fried fish premises in the district during the year.

Wrapping of Food and Sale of Food in Open Air. In this connection the Council adopted Model Byelaws during the year.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of notifiable infectious diseases were reported to me during the year.

Scarlet Fever.....2 cases.
Measles.....3 cases.
Whooping Cough.....1 case.

The district therefore was free of any epidemic of notifiable infectious disease.

Under the new Health Act, all fees paid by the Council for the notification of infectious disease are refunded by the County Council provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....8.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....6.
Number of cases removed due to death.....1.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....0.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....13.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below :

1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
4.	2.	3.	4.	4.	3.	0.	6.	0.	3	6

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.
There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,
T.C.R. George,
Medical Officer of Health.